

INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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S-E-C-R-E-T
REFORM/CONTINUED CONTROL

COUNTRY Syria/Egypt/Jordan/Israel REPORT NO. CB-105018

SUBJECT 1. Activities of the Former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem on Behalf of the Egyptian and Syrian Governments DATE ENTR. 12 October 1956

2. Fadayin Units in Syria NO. PAGES 2

DATE OF INFO. July - August 1956 REQUIREMENT NO. SD W-1417

PLACE & DATE ACQ. England, London (12 September 1956) REFERENCES

SOURCE An official British service; from a source described as regular. Appraisal of Content: 3.

1. The former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, Hajj Amin al-Husayni, arrived in Syria in early July 1956 with instructions from Egyptian President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasr to confer with exiled leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood concerning the effect of Muslim Brotherhood propaganda in Arab and Muslim countries. With the help of their supporters in Damascus, exiled Muslim Brotherhood leaders have produced a weekly paper, al-Shihab, and a weekly magazine, Idman al-Muslimin. However, 'Abd-al-Nasr was particularly concerned about the effect of the Islamic Conference which was held in Damascus at the end of June.⁸
2. Hajj Amin had discussions with leading Muslim Brothers over a two-week period, at the end of which they finally agreed to stop their propaganda activities and cooperate with the Egyptian Government. Their terms were as follows:
 - a. The release of their leader Hasan al-Hudaybi, the return of all his confiscated property, and compensation for his material and moral losses.
 - b. Cancellation of the decrees outlawing the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, with a return of property to the Muslim Brothers and compensation for their losses, plus compensation for the families of those sentenced to death.

Hajj Amin promised to transmit these terms to 'Abd-al-Nasr.
3. Hajj Amin was asked by the Syrian Government to supervise the preparation of Fadayin units in Syria, composed of Palestinian youths, for sabotage inside Israel. As of August, Hajj Amin regularly visited the command training camps, which are situated outside Damascus, near the Israeli border, on the southern road from Damascus to Lebanon.

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S-E-C-R-E-T
REFORM/CONTINUED CONTROL

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4. There are at present in Syria 10 Fidayin units, each consisting of 50 men who are between 25 and 30 years old and have a very accurate knowledge of the ground in Israel, where they are expected to operate. They are being trained by Egyptian, Syrian, and German officers. Their training includes infiltration into Israel for operational intelligence purposes for periods of up to a week, during which they are to become familiar with conditions and defenses and to learn where they can find refuge in Arab families. Members of the Fidayin units are well paid (100 Syrian pounds per month) and are well equipped and fed. Compensation is promised to their families if they are killed in action, at the rate of 1,000 Syrian pounds to a family, double if married, with 100 Syrian pounds for each child.
5. In August, the leader of No. 1 Fidayin unit was Fawzi al-Khatib of Jerusalem. About 30 years old, he is a follower of the former Grand Mufti, who sent him to Germany during World War II for training. He was then parachuted into Palestine, near Jericho, and joined 'Abd-al-Qadir al-Husayni and Hassan Salameh during the Jerusalem battles. His activities included the blowing up of the Palestine Post building.
6. Hajj Amin is trying to get the Syrian Government to increase the Fidayin units to double their present number.

Headquarters Comments.

1. TDCS-104064 reported that Hajj Amin was staying in Hama, Syria, as of June 1956.
2. For further information on the Islamic Conference, see TDCS-104227.